



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Canberra



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CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987, PRELIMINARY

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MAIN FEATURES

In June 1987 there were an estimated 2,887,900 children under the age of twelve years in Australia.

In the week prior to interview 253,400 children attended pre-school, 154,600 attended a child care centre and 51,800 attended family day care schemes giving a total of 455,200 children using formal care. Of this total only 20,200 children attended more than one type of formal care (e.g. a pre-school and a family day care scheme).

Of the children using formal care, 22 per cent went for less than five hours, 33 per cent for five to nine hours and 31 per cent attended for ten to nineteen hours per week.

For children using formal care, 31 per cent paid between \$1 and \$4 per week and 30 per cent paid between \$5 and \$14 per week.

The main reasons for using formal care were *good for child* (31 per cent), *prepare for school* (30 per cent) and *work* (25 per cent).

A total of 1,106,400 children used informal care in the week prior to interview:

- 187,100 were looked after by older children living in the dwelling;
- 92,200 were looked after by relatives (other than the responsible adult and/or the spouse) who were living in the dwelling;

- 537,400 were looked after by relatives not living in the same dwelling;

- 27,000 were looked after by non-relatives who were living in the dwelling;

- 360,500 were cared for by non-relatives not living in the same dwelling.

Of the children using informal care, 46 per cent (509,300) were looked after for less than five hours per week.

For children using informal care, 84 per cent reported no cost for the care provided.

The main reasons for using informal care arrangements were *work* (38 per cent) and *entertainment/social activity* (21 per cent).

Children using other arrangements (such as hospital, sporting activities, looked after self or person responsible always able to look after child) totalled 1,536,800 and of these children 1,480,200 were cared for exclusively by the person responsible for the child (or the spouse where applicable). This constituted 51 per cent of all children under the age of twelve years.

Only 4 per cent of school children used vacation care programs during the previous school holiday period.

TABLE 1. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE : COMBINATIONS OF CATEGORIES(a) OF CARE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1987
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Combinations of categories	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Formal child care only	78.6	63.5	50.9	18.8	26.2	10.1	6.0	9.1	263.3
Informal child care only	308.5	233.5	144.4	78.7	84.5	23.3	7.2	16.9	896.9
Other only	526.9	377.6	262.5	117.7	142.9	45.6	20.2	24.2	1,517.6
Formal and informal child care	66.3	41.8	33.6	16.9	21.1	4.3	3.3	3.5	191.0
Formal child care and other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Informal child care and other	3.3	6.9	3.1	*1.1	*1.9	*	*	*0.9	18.2
Formal and informal child care and other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total formal child care(b)	145.3	105.3	84.7	35.9	47.6	14.4	9.3	12.7	455.2
Total informal child care(c)	378.1	282.1	181.0	96.8	107.6	28.3	10.9	21.3	1,106.4
Total other(d)	530.5	384.5	265.8	119.0	145.1	46.3	20.6	25.1	1,536.8
Total children under twelve years of age	983.9	723.3	494.7	233.4	276.9	84.0	37.0	54.7	2,887.9

(a) See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 1, paragraph 14 for description of arrangements of child care included in each category. (b) Aggregates formal child care only, formal and informal child care, formal child care and other and formal and informal child care and other. (c) Aggregates informal child care only, formal and informal child care, informal child care and other and formal and informal child care and other. (d) Aggregates other only, formal child care and other, informal child care and other and formal and informal child care and other.

TABLE 2. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE : COMBINATIONS OF CHILD CARE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1987 ('000)

<i>Combinations of child care</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Formal child care—									
Pre-school only	78.5	54.6	47.2	17.2	25.9	6.2	3.9	3.0	236.5
Child care centre only	50.5	34.3	20.3	9.1	12.4	5.4	4.5	6.0	142.4
Family day care only	10.2	11.2	9.6	4.6	3.2	*2.1	*	*1.7	43.1
Not able to be classified only	*2.1	*1.6	3.7	*2.1	2.5	*	*	*0.8	12.9
Two or more arrangements of formal child care	4.0	3.5	3.8	2.8	3.5	*	*	*1.2	20.2
Total children who used formal care	145.3	105.3	84.7	35.9	47.6	14.4	9.3	12.7	455.2
Total children who used formal and no informal child care(a)	78.9	63.5	51.1	18.8	26.4	10.1	6.0	9.1	264.0
Informal child care—									
Child(ren) resident in the dwelling only	46.8	46.4	21.6	12.5	13.6	4.4	*1.1	4.4	150.8
Relative(s) resident in the dwelling only(b)	34.5	16.5	13.5	5.6	7.3	*1.0	*2.2	*	81.1
Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only	156.4	121.2	77.2	45.6	44.1	15.8	*2.0	5.2	467.6
Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling only	8.8	*2.2	2.8	*1.4	*2.1	*	*	*	17.6
Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only	100.0	72.7	51.0	21.4	30.5	5.0	4.7	9.4	294.8
Two or more arrangements of informal child care	31.7	23.1	15.0	10.3	10.0	*2.0	*0.8	*1.5	94.5
Total children who used informal child care	378.1	282.1	181.0	96.8	107.6	28.3	10.9	21.3	1,106.4
Total children who used informal and no formal child care(a)	311.8	240.4	147.4	79.7	86.5	24.0	7.6	17.8	915.1
Other arrangements—									
Children look after themselves and/or attend hospital, sports activity etc.	16.4	15.5	8.4	4.0	6.7	2.6	1.6	1.4	56.6
Person responsible always able to look after child in the week prior to interview(c)	514.1	368.9	257.4	115.0	138.5	43.7	18.9	23.7	1,480.2
Total children who used other arrangements	530.5	384.5	265.8	119.0	145.1	46.3	20.6	25.1	1,536.8
Total children who used other arrangements only (i.e. no formal or informal child care)	526.9	377.6	262.5	117.7	142.9	45.6	20.2	24.2	1,517.6
Total children under twelve years of age	983.9	723.3	494.7	233.4	276.9	84.0	37.0	54.7	2,887.9

(a) A small number of these children also had other arrangements i.e. children look after themselves and/or attend hospital, sports activity etc. (b) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse. (c) May include care by the spouse of the person responsible.

TABLE 3. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE : COMBINATIONS OF CHILD CARE BY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND WHETHER USED VACATION CARE, AND BY AGE OF CHILD, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987
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Combinations of child care	School attendance				Age of child (years)			
	Attending school			Not attending school				Total
	Whether used vacation care(a)							
	Used vacation care	Did not use vaca- tion care	Total attending school		Under 3	3-5	6-11	
Formal child care—								
Pre-school only	*	*	*	236.4	*	236.1	*	236.5
Child care centre only	7.8	19.6	27.4	115.1	51.9	67.7	22.8	142.4
Family day care only	*	11.2	11.8	31.2	21.4	12.3	9.4	43.1
Not able to be classified only	*	*1.1	*1.7	11.3	4.3	7.2	*1.5	12.9
Two or more arrangements of formal child care	*	*	*	20.2	*2.3	18.0	*	20.2
<i>Total children who used formal care</i>	<i>9.1</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>41.1</i>	<i>414.2</i>	<i>80.0</i>	<i>341.3</i>	<i>34.0</i>	<i>455.2</i>
Total children who used formal and no informal child care(b)	3.9	19.4	23.3	240.6	48.2	196.8	19.0	264.0
Informal child care—								
Child(ren) resident in the dwelling only	6.0	123.2	129.2	21.7	7.8	21.2	121.9	150.8
Relative(s) resident in the dwelling only(c)	*1.4	37.6	39.1	42.0	27.2	17.8	36.1	81.1
Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only	8.3	169.7	178.0	289.6	174.7	144.9	147.9	467.6
Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling only	*1.0	8.7	9.7	7.9	3.8	5.0	8.8	17.6
Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only	9.1	142.1	151.2	143.6	74.7	89.4	130.7	294.8
Two or more arrangements of informal child care	3.6	42.8	46.4	48.1	25.3	27.4	41.9	94.5
<i>Total children who used informal child care</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>524.1</i>	<i>553.5</i>	<i>552.8</i>	<i>313.5</i>	<i>305.6</i>	<i>487.2</i>	<i>1,106.4</i>
Total children who used informal and no formal child care(b)	24.3	511.5	535.8	379.3	281.7	161.1	472.3	915.1
Other arrangements—								
Children look after themselves and/or attend hospital, sports activity etc.	3.3	50.5	53.8	2.7	1.6	1.8	53.2	56.6
Person responsible always able to look after child in the week prior to interview(d)	27.3	969.2	996.5	483.7	363.5	226.6	890.1	1,480.2
<i>Total children who used other arrangements</i>	<i>30.6</i>	<i>1,019.7</i>	<i>1,050.4</i>	<i>486.4</i>	<i>365.1</i>	<i>228.4</i>	<i>943.3</i>	<i>1,536.8</i>
Total children who used other arrangements only (i.e. no formal or informal child care)	29.3	1,002.9	1,032.2	485.4	365.0	227.5	925.1	1,517.6
Total	62.6	1,546.4	1,609.1	1,278.8	726.7	729.8	1,431.4	2,887.9

(a) Relevant only to school children. (b) A small number of these children also had other arrangements i.e. children look after themselves and/or attend hospital, sports activity etc. (c) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse. (d) May include care by the spouse of the person responsible.

TABLE 4. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CHILD CARE : TYPES OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CHILD CARE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1987
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<i>Types of formal and informal child care</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<i>Formal child care—</i>									
Pre-school	81.8	57.5	50.2	19.5	29.1	6.9	4.4	4.0	253.4
Child care centre	52.8	36.7	22.4	10.6	14.9	5.8	4.9	6.6	154.6
Family day care	12.1	13.0	11.6	6.0	4.1	2.5	*	*2.0	51.8
Not able to be classified	2.5	*1.6	4.4	2.7	3.1	*	*	*1.4	15.7
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	<i>145.3</i>	<i>105.3</i>	<i>84.7</i>	<i>35.9</i>	<i>47.6</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>455.2</i>
<i>Informal child care—</i>									
Child(ren) resident in the dwelling	58.6	57.0	26.5	15.8	17.6	4.9	*1.5	5.1	187.1
Relative(s) resident in the dwelling(b)	36.9	18.7	16.5	6.9	9.2	*1.0	2.5	*	92.2
Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling	179.7	138.1	88.2	53.8	51.4	17.5	*2.3	6.5	537.4
Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling	13.6	3.2	4.3	*2.2	3.1	*	*	*	27.0
Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling	121.8	88.9	61.7	28.7	36.9	6.8	5.2	10.5	360.5
<i>Total children using informal care(a)</i>	<i>378.1</i>	<i>282.1</i>	<i>181.0</i>	<i>96.8</i>	<i>107.6</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>1,106.4</i>
Total(a)	457.0	345.7	232.2	115.7	134.0	38.4	16.9	30.5	1,370.3

(a) The data refer to all arrangements of formal and informal child care used by the child in the week prior to interview, and any child may be included in several child care types. Totals may be less than the sums of components since children could have used more than one type of care. (b) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse.

TABLE 5. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CHILD CARE : TYPES OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CHILD CARE BY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND WHETHER USED VACATION CARE, AND BY AGE OF CHILD, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987
(' 000)

Types of formal and informal child care	School attendance				Age of child (years)			Total
	Attending school				Under 3	3-5	6-11	
	Whether used vacation care(a)							
	Used vacation care	Did not use vaca- tion care	Total attending school	Not attending school				
Formal child care—								
Pre-school	*	*	*	253.3	*	252.8	*	253.4
Child care centre	7.8	19.6	27.4	127.2	53.7	78.1	22.8	154.6
Family day care	*	11.2	11.8	40.0	23.6	18.9	9.4	51.8
Not able to be classified	*	*1.1	*1.7	14.0	4.5	9.7	*1.5	15.7
Total children using formal care(b)	9.1	32.0	41.1	414.2	80.0	341.3	34.0	455.2
Informal child care—								
Child(ren) resident in the dwelling	7.8	149.2	157.0	30.1	11.0	28.8	147.4	187.1
Relative(s) resident in the dwelling(c)	*1.5	42.3	43.8	48.5	30.0	21.6	40.7	92.2
Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling	11.5	196.5	207.9	329.5	196.9	166.2	174.3	537.4
Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling	*1.1	12.2	13.3	13.7	7.2	7.6	12.2	27.0
Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling	11.1	168.7	179.8	180.7	94.3	109.7	156.5	360.5
Total children using informal care(b)	29.4	524.1	553.5	552.8	313.5	305.6	487.2	1,106.4
Total(b)	33.4	543.5	576.9	793.5	361.7	502.4	506.3	1,370.3

(a) Relevant only to school children. (b) The data refer to all arrangements of formal and informal child care used by the child in the week prior to interview, and any child may be included in several child care types. Totals may be less than the sums of components since children could have used more than one type of care. (c) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse.

TABLE 6. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CHILD CARE: TYPES OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CHILD CARE BY HOURS OF CHILD CARE, FREQUENCY OF CHILD CARE, DAYS CHILD CARE USED AND TIME OF DAY CARE USED, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987
(*000)

<i>Hours and frequency of child care, days on which child care used and time of day child care used</i>	<i>Types of formal child care</i>				<i>Types of informal child care</i>						<i>Total informal care(a)</i>	<i>Total(a)</i>
	<i>Pre-school</i>	<i>Child care centre</i>	<i>Family day care</i>	<i>Not able to be classified</i>	<i>Total formal care(a)</i>	<i>Child(ren) resident in the dwelling</i>	<i>Relative(s) resident in the dwelling (b)</i>	<i>Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling</i>	<i>Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling</i>	<i>Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling</i>		
<i>Hours of child care(c)—</i>												
Less than 5	43.1	51.5	10.2	8.6	101.3	123.2	42.8	234.5	15.4	174.7	509.3	491.9
5-9	109.5	34.7	10.2	3.1	149.5	44.5	15.7	115.2	6.0	83.5	243.2	324.8
10-19	96.0	37.1	12.3	*1.9	142.8	13.9	13.2	89.7	2.8	54.1	172.7	286.7
20-29	2.5	14.0	7.6	*0.8	26.5	2.9	6.8	36.2	*1.4	20.9	69.4	100.9
30-39	2.4	9.3	4.8	*0.8	18.4	*0.9	4.6	18.7	*0.9	9.4	37.3	62.5
40 or more	*	8.0	6.7	*	16.6	*1.7	9.0	43.1	*	17.8	74.4	103.6
<i>Frequency of child care(d)—</i>												
At least once a week	251.6	145.0	48.4	14.7	441.1	140.3	67.7	285.9	17.9	207.0	675.9	1,003.2
At least once a fortnight	*1.8	4.7	*2.1	*	8.4	14.9	6.9	60.6	*1.7	33.0	102.7	91.8
Less than once a fortnight	*	4.9	*1.3	*	5.8	31.9	17.6	190.9	7.4	120.5	327.7	275.3
<i>Days child care used(e)—</i>												
Week days only	253.4	152.9	51.1	15.7	452.9	150.9	63.1	367.2	20.5	278.0	789.0	1,051.0
Weekends only	*	*	*	*	*	24.3	12.3	109.9	4.6	55.1	177.7	148.6
Both weekdays and weekends	*	*1.1	*	*	*1.9	12.0	16.8	60.4	*2.0	27.4	139.7	170.7
<i>Time child care used(f)—</i>												
Before school	*	3.3	*	*	4.0	6.0	*1.9	7.8	*1.1	10.8	23.6	21.7
During school	248.3	86.3	17.2	12.1	345.2	4.2	15.5	118.2	4.3	68.9	190.6	407.3
After school	*1.4	24.3	8.2	*1.7	34.4	141.1	38.5	179.6	12.8	147.8	472.2	438.0
Before and during school	*1.2	7.1	*2.3	*	11.0	*1.1	*0.9	7.2	*	5.0	13.4	23.3
Before and after school	*	3.5	5.0	*	7.5	7.0	6.3	17.9	*1.1	23.6	57.1	61.7
During and after school	*1.9	11.3	6.2	*	19.6	*1.8	4.0	34.0	*1.6	21.8	66.5	127.9
All times of day	*	18.3	12.6	*	33.1	*1.6	12.8	62.9	*1.6	27.5	105.2	141.8
Weekend only	*	*	*	*	*	24.3	12.3	109.9	4.6	55.1	177.7	148.6
Total	253.4	154.6	51.8	15.7	455.2	187.1	92.2	537.4	27.0	360.5	1,106.4	1,370.3

(a) The data refer to all arrangements of formal and informal child care used by the child in the week prior to interview, and any child may be included in several child care types. (b) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse. (c) Where a child used more than one type of child care, hours of child care have been aggregated. See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 1, paragraphs 26 and 27. (d) Where a child used more than one type of child care, totals in frequency of child care are based on the most frequently used type of child care. (e) Where a child used more than one type of child care, totals in days child care used are based on the combined effect of aggregating the types of child care. (f) Where a child used more than one type of child care, totals in time care used are based on the combined effect of aggregating the types of child care.

TABLE 7. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL CHILD CARE: COST OF FORMAL CHILD CARE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES BY TYPES OF FORMAL CHILD CARE, JUNE 1987
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Types of formal child care	Cost of formal child care per week						Total
	No cost	\$1-4	\$5-14	\$15-44	\$45 or more	Not stated	
<i>New South Wales</i>							
Pre-school	*2.0	16.1	39.2	23.0	*	*1.1	81.8
Child care centre	*2.2	10.0	20.1	14.2	6.3	*	52.8
Family day care	*	*1.6	3.3	3.6	3.2	*	12.1
Not able to be classified	*0.9	*	*	*	*	*	2.5
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	5.0	26.1	62.1	40.1	10.8	*1.1	145.3
<i>Victoria</i>							
Pre-school	*1.8	44.9	6.9	2.9	*	*	57.5
Child care centre	4.0	8.7	8.6	8.7	6.5	*	36.7
Family day care	*	*1.1	4.6	5.7	*1.7	*	13.0
Not able to be classified	*1.0	*	*	*	*	*	*1.6
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	6.2	52.4	19.9	16.9	9.4	*	105.3
<i>Queensland</i>							
Pre-school	27.5	4.2	15.3	3.2	*	*	50.2
Child care centre	*0.9	2.8	9.9	6.1	2.7	*	22.4
Family day care	*	*1.3	2.9	4.8	*2.4	*	11.6
Not able to be classified	*0.9	*	*2.3	*	*	*	4.4
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	27.6	8.5	28.7	14.6	5.4	*	84.7
<i>South Australia</i>							
Pre-school	*1.1	17.9	*	*	*	*	19.5
Child care centre	2.5	2.5	*2.1	*2.4	*1.0	*	10.6
Family day care	*	*1.9	*1.7	*1.5	*0.9	*	6.0
Not able to be classified	*1.1	*1.0	*	*	*	*	2.7
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	3.3	21.8	4.8	4.0	*2.1	*	35.9
<i>Western Australia</i>							
Pre-school	9.4	14.7	3.8	*1.2	*	*	29.1
Child care centre	3.3	4.4	3.5	2.5	*1.2	*	14.9
Family day care	*	*	*1.1	*1.2	*1.0	*	4.1
Not able to be classified	*	*2.2	*	*	*	*	3.1
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	11.3	19.8	8.9	5.0	*2.4	*	47.6
<i>Tasmania</i>							
Pre-school	*	4.5	*1.2	*	*	*	6.9
Child care centre	*0.9	*1.7	*1.9	*0.9	*	*	5.8
Family day care	*	*	*	*1.0	*	*	2.5
Not able to be classified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	*1.5	6.0	3.7	*2.3	*	*	14.4
<i>Northern Territory</i>							
Pre-school	*1.9	*1.7	*	*	*	*	4.4
Child care centre	*	*	*1.9	*1.4	*1.1	*	4.9
Family day care	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not able to be classified	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	*2.3	*1.2	2.7	*1.7	*1.4	*	9.3
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>							
Pre-school	*	3.7	*	*	*	*	4.0
Child care centre	*	*2.3	3.0	*	*	*	6.6
Family day care	*	*	*	*	*	*	*2.0
Not able to be classified	*	*0.9	*	*	*	*	*1.4
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	*	5.5	4.3	*1.3	*1.4	*	12.7
<i>Total</i>							
Pre-school	44.5	107.6	67.6	31.1	*1.1	*1.6	253.4
Child care centre	14.2	32.4	51.0	36.9	19.8	*	154.6
Family day care	*0.9	6.8	15.1	18.5	10.4	*	51.8
Not able to be classified	4.3	5.1	4.2	*0.8	*1.2	*	15.7
<i>Total children using formal care(a)</i>	57.3	141.3	135.2	85.9	33.6	*2.0	455.2

(a) The data refer to all arrangements of formal child care used by the child in the week prior to interview, and any child may be included in several child care types. Total cost of care are aggregated for all types of formal care used by the child. See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 1, paragraph 28.

TABLE 8. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CHILD CARE: COMBINATIONS OF FORMAL CHILD CARE BY COMBINATIONS OF INFORMAL CHILD CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987
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Combinations of informal child care	Combinations of formal child care					No formal care	Total
	Pre-school only	Child care centre only	Family day care only	Not able to be classified only	Two or more arrangements of formal child care		
Child(ren) resident in the dwelling only	7.5	4.0	*	*	*	138.4	150.8
Relative(s) resident in the dwelling only(a)	5.8	3.7	*	*	*	70.8	81.1
Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only	45.5	29.5	7.4	*2.2	3.5	379.4	467.6
Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling only	*1.3	*	*	*	*	14.7	17.6
Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only	29.0	17.3	4.8	*1.8	3.9	237.9	294.8
Two or more arrangements of informal child care	12.5	4.8	*1.9	*	*0.9	73.9	94.5
No informal care	134.9	82.6	27.4	8.0	11.1	..	264.0
Total	236.5	142.4	43.1	12.9	20.2	915.1	1,370.3

(a) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse.

TABLE 9. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CHILD CARE: COMBINATIONS OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CHILD CARE BY HOURS AND FREQUENCY OF CHILD CARE, DAYS ON WHICH CHILD CARE USED, COST OF CHILD CARE AND MAIN REASON FOR USING CHILD CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987
(⁰⁰⁰)

<i>Hours and frequency of child care, days on which child care used, cost of child care and main reason person responsible used child care</i>	<i>Combinations of formal child care</i>						<i>Combinations of informal child care</i>							<i>Total children who used formal and/or informal child care</i>
	<i>Pre-school only</i>	<i>Child care centre only</i>	<i>Family day care only</i>	<i>Not able to be classified only</i>	<i>Two or more arrangements of formal child care</i>	<i>Total children who used formal child care</i>	<i>Child(ren) resident in the dwelling only</i>	<i>Relative(s) resident in the dwelling only(a)</i>	<i>Relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only</i>	<i>Non-relative(s) resident in the dwelling only</i>	<i>Non-relative(s) not resident in the dwelling only</i>	<i>Two or more arrangements of informal child care</i>	<i>Total children who used informal child care</i>	
<i>Hours of child care(b)—</i>														
Less than 5	39.5	45.8	8.3	6.9	*	101.3	100.3	36.6	208.6	8.8	140.0	15.0	509.3	491.9
5-9	101.8	32.0	8.8	2.5	4.4	149.5	34.0	13.6	97.2	4.4	67.8	26.2	243.2	324.8
10-19	90.5	34.8	9.2	*1.5	6.8	142.8	11.7	12.7	75.0	*2.0	45.0	26.3	172.7	286.7
20-29	2.5	12.8	6.1	*	4.5	26.5	2.7	6.1	30.7	*1.3	17.1	11.6	69.4	100.9
30-39	*2.2	9.1	3.9	*0.8	*2.4	18.4	*	4.4	17.0	*	8.3	6.5	37.3	62.5
40 or more	*	7.9	6.7	*	*1.5	16.6	*1.5	7.8	39.1	*	16.7	8.8	74.4	103.6
<i>Frequency of child care(c)—</i>														
At least once a week	234.7	133.9	40.1	12.1	20.2	441.1	112.0	59.7	246.1	11.8	168.7	77.5	675.9	1,003.2
At least once a fortnight	*1.8	4.5	*1.9	*	*	8.4	12.5	6.1	51.8	*	26.5	5.3	102.7	91.8
Less than once a fortnight	*	4.0	*1.2	*	*	5.8	26.4	15.3	169.6	5.2	99.5	11.7	327.7	275.3
<i>Days child care used(d)—</i>														
Week days only	236.5	140.9	42.4	12.9	20.2	452.9	121.3	55.7	320.9	13.0	227.0	51.0	789.0	1,051.0
Weekends only	*	*	*	*	*	*	21.6	10.5	95.0	3.3	45.3	*2.0	177.7	148.6
Both weekdays and weekends	*	*1.1	*	*	*	*1.9	8.0	14.8	51.6	*1.2	22.5	41.5	139.7	170.7
<i>Cost of child care per week(c)—</i>														
No cost	41.6	11.7	*	3.3	*	57.3	146.1	79.5	444.4	14.8	179.6	68.2	932.6	831.7
\$1-4	99.2	29.4	4.8	4.4	3.5	141.3	*1.7	*	*0.9	*	13.0	2.8	18.7	148.0
\$5-14	63.6	48.0	13.4	3.5	6.6	135.2	2.6	*0.9	7.3	*	41.4	11.3	64.4	179.8
\$15-44	29.5	34.5	14.7	*	6.6	85.9	*	*	12.3	*1.3	43.8	8.8	67.1	147.5
\$45 or more	*1.1	18.6	9.4	*1.2	3.3	33.6	*	*	2.7	*	16.2	3.4	22.9	60.6
Not stated	*1.6	*	*	*	*	*2.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.6
<i>Main reason person responsible used child care—</i>														
Work	6.4	60.2	34.0	2.9	8.7	112.2	65.8	32.1	152.1	4.6	124.3	40.8	419.6	..
Look for work	*	*1.4	*	*	*	*1.4	*	*	*1.5	*	*1.3	*	3.2	..
Study/train for work	*	7.4	*1.1	*	*0.9	10.7	3.5	*2.2	9.1	*	9.7	3.4	28.5	..
Sport	*	11.3	*	*1.2	*0.9	13.9	2.5	2.6	15.9	*	8.5	3.4	33.6	..
Shopping	*	4.4	*	*	*	5.5	29.7	14.9	60.3	*2.2	16.1	8.3	131.5	..
Entertainment/social activity	*	2.6	*	*1.1	*1.1	5.2	27.5	16.1	98.3	3.5	64.9	17.7	227.9	..
Give parents a break/time alone	5.0	10.1	3.2	*1.8	*0.9	20.9	3.1	3.0	30.6	*1.4	11.4	4.2	53.7	..
Voluntary/community activity	*	*1.7	*	*	*	*2.2	6.5	*1.4	8.9	*	8.3	2.7	28.3	..
Care for relatives	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.0	*1.4	7.7	*	4.9	*1.7	21.8	..
Visit doctor/dentist	*	*1.3	*	*	*	*2.1	4.5	4.9	29.9	*1.6	15.0	4.0	59.8	..
Good for child	98.2	34.0	*2.3	3.6	3.1	141.1	*	*	24.4	*1.7	19.4	4.0	50.1	..
Prepare for school	124.4	6.1	*	*1.4	3.9	135.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	..
Other	*1.0	*1.3	*	*	*	3.3	*1.2	*2.4	28.8	*0.9	10.7	4.0	47.9	..
Total	236.5	142.4	43.1	12.9	20.2	455.2	150.8	81.1	467.6	17.6	294.8	94.5	1,106.4	1,370.3

(a) Child care by relatives resident in the dwelling excludes care by the person responsible for the child and his/her spouse. (b) Where a child used more than one type of child care, hours and cost of child care have been aggregated. See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 1, paragraphs 26 to 28. (c) Where a child used more than one type of child care, totals in frequency of child care are based on the most frequently used type of child care. (d) Where a child used more than one type of child care, totals in days child care used are based on the combined effect of aggregating the types of child care.

TABLE 10. CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CHILD CARE : COST OF CHILD CARE(a) BY CATEGORIES OF CHILD CARE BY HOURS OF CHILD CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987
(^c 000)

Cost of child care per week	Hours of child care						Total (b)
	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 or more	
<i>Formal child care(a)—</i>							
No cost	15.2	14.7	26.7	*	*	*	57.3
\$1-4	52.5	61.6	27.2	*	*	*	141.3
\$5-14	31.3	58.4	36.3	4.9	3.1	*1.1	135.2
\$15-44	*1.6	13.4	49.8	12.4	5.8	2.9	85.9
\$45 or more	*	*	2.9	8.6	9.2	12.5	33.6
Not stated	*	*1.1	*	*	*	*	*2.0
<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>101.3</i>	<i>149.5</i>	<i>142.8</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>455.2</i>
<i>Informal child care(a)—</i>							
No cost	470.3	197.1	131.2	53.1	24.7	56.2	932.6
\$1-4	14.6	*2.4	*1.0	*	*	*	18.7
\$5-14	20.6	27.7	10.7	2.6	*0.8	*1.9	64.4
\$15-44	3.7	15.0	26.6	8.9	6.1	6.8	67.1
\$45 or more	*	*	3.3	4.4	5.6	8.9	22.9
Not stated	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Total(b)</i>	<i>509.3</i>	<i>243.2</i>	<i>172.7</i>	<i>69.4</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>1,106.4</i>
<i>Formal and/or informal care(c)—</i>							
No cost	406.1	179.8	133.7	44.0	19.8	48.4	831.7
\$1-4	46.8	53.6	35.0	5.2	3.1	4.4	148.0
\$5-14	34.5	67.2	50.1	14.3	5.6	8.1	179.8
\$15-44	3.9	22.3	62.4	26.2	15.8	16.9	147.5
\$45 or more	*	*0.8	5.3	10.8	18.1	25.6	60.6
Not stated	*	*1.2	*	*	*	*	2.6
Total children under twelve years of age who used formal and/or informal child care	491.9	324.8	286.7	100.9	62.5	103.6	1,370.3

(a) Includes children who used both formal and informal child care. (b) Where a child used more than one type of child care, the cost and hours for each type have been aggregated. See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 1, paragraphs 26 to 28. (c) Where a child used both formal and informal child care, the cost and hours for each has been aggregated. See Explanatory Notes, Appendix 1, paragraphs 26 to 28.

APPENDIX 1

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

A survey was conducted throughout Australia in June 1987 to obtain information on child care arrangements made by persons responsible for children under twelve years of age. The survey collected details on the social and economic characteristics of family units (e.g. marital status, labour force status, language spoken, shiftwork, income etc.), patterns of usage of child care (e.g. days, hours and times of care), location and preference of location of formal care, cost and main reason for using formal and informal child care, use of vacation care (school children only), the level of met, partially met or unmet demand for child care services and the amount of care by the partner or spouse of the person responsible. Details of child care arrangements were collected for each child in the survey.

2. This publication contains preliminary estimates of child care arrangements made by the person responsible for each child under the age of twelve and includes topics such as cost, hours, frequency of use and main reason for using formal and informal child care. This publication provides data based on characteristics of children. More detailed estimates containing family characteristics and patterns of child care arrangements for all children under twelve in a family unit will be released at a later date.

3. The estimates in this preliminary publication are subject to revision.

Scope and coverage

4. The survey was conducted as part of the regular population survey which is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 35,000 houses and flats) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia.

5. People in non-private dwellings were excluded from the survey. Therefore, this publication excludes all children who were domiciled in hotels, motels, caravan parks, aboriginal settlements, boarding houses, hospitals and homes (e.g. orphanages and homes for the handicapped etc.), prisons and reformatories, and religious and educational institutions.

6. Certain other persons were excluded from the survey, such as members of the permanent Australian defence forces, members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia, diplomatic personnel of overseas governments and non-Australian members of their household and persons from overseas touring or holidaying in Australia. Consequently children for whom they were responsible (see paragraph 11) were also excluded from the survey.

7. Children who were visitors to the sampled household were excluded from the survey.

Survey method

8. The information about child care arrangements was obtained through interviews with the person responsible for the children under twelve years of age. If the person responsible for children under twelve years of age was not available for interview, another responsible adult answered on his or her behalf.

9. Interviews were carried out over a period of two weeks commencing 8 June 1987.

Sample design

10. The following table shows the number of children in responding households across States and Territories.

CHILD CARE SURVEY, JUNE 1987
NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE IN RESPONDING HOUSEHOLDS

State or Territory	Metropolitan	Non-metropolitan	Total
New South Wales	2,583	1,759	4,342
Victoria	2,418	1,075	3,493
Queensland	1,425	1,779	3,204
South Australia	1,498	665	2,163
Western Australia	1,747	756	2,503
Tasmania	498	758	1,256
Northern Territory	..	189	189
Australian Capital Territory	..	510	510
Australia	10,169	7,491	17,660

Definitions

11. The *person responsible* for children under twelve years of age was the parent in a one parent family or either parent in a two parent family or the adult nominated by the household as having the main responsibility for the care of each child in households where the parent was unavailable for interview.

12. *Child care* relates to all arrangements, except time spent at school, made for the care of children under twelve years of age for Monday to Sunday of the week prior to interview. In Tasmania the time period covered was for the week 18 May to 24 May 1987 in order to avoid school holidays.

13. *Categories of child care.* Child care has been classified to three broad categories, i.e. *Formal*, *Informal* and *Other*.

14. *Arrangements of child care* have been classified within the categories *Formal*, *Informal* and *Other* as follows:

- (a) *Formal child care* includes any care arrangement made for the care of children (when the children were not in the care of the person responsible, or their spouse) at a pre-school, a child care centre (such as a creche, kindergarten or occasional care centre), or through a family day care scheme.

- (b) Informal child care includes any care arrangements (when the children were not in the care of the person responsible or their spouse, if applicable) where the children were cared for by other children resident at the selected private dwelling and/or by relatives or non-relatives resident at the dwelling or resident elsewhere.
- (c) Other includes any arrangements where the person responsible or their spouse (where applicable) was always able to look after the child in the week prior to interview. Also included in this category are arrangements where the children were not in the care of the person responsible and spent time at hospital, sporting activities, scouts, music lessons etc. or where the children looked after themselves.

It will be readily appreciated that a child may have used only one arrangement of child care in the week prior to interview or may have used a combination of arrangements. Rather than merely measure the arrangements most often used, this survey attempts to measure the various combinations of arrangements. In order to do this, several supplementary classifications (called Combinations of Categories, Combinations of Child Care and Types of Child Care) have been used in this publication. These classifications are described in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 following.

15. *Combinations of categories.* This classification is aimed at the category level and indicates the combinations of categories of child care used. Children are classified in a *mutually exclusive way between categories*, thereby enabling a count of total children in the survey. The classification does not take into account combinations of arrangements *within* categories. The classification is as follows:

Formal child care only
 Informal child care only
 Other only
 Formal and informal child care
 Formal child care and other
 Informal child care and other
 Formal and informal child care and other
 Total children

16. *Combinations of child care.* This classification measures the combinations of child care arrangements used *within* each of the three broad categories on the basis of whether there was only one arrangement used or a combination of two or more. Children are classified in a *mutually exclusive way within each category* only. This enables children to be totalled at the category level and also indicates the extent to which two or more arrangements of child care within the category have been used. The classification does not take into account combinations of arrangements across categories of child care. The classification is as follows:

Formal child care—
 Pre-school only
 Child care centre only
 Family day care only
 Not able to be classified only
 Two or more arrangements of formal child care

Total children who used formal child care

Total children who used formal and no informal child care

Informal child care—
 Children resident in the dwelling only
 Relatives resident in the dwelling only
 Relatives not resident in the dwelling only
 Non-relatives resident in the dwelling only
 Non-relatives not resident in the dwelling only
 Two or more arrangements of informal child care

Total children who used informal child care

Total children who used informal and no formal child care

Other arrangements—
 Children look after themselves and/or attend hospital, sports activities etc.
 Person responsible always able to look after child in the week prior to interview

Total children who used other arrangements

Total children who used other arrangements only (i.e. no formal or informal child care)

In Tables 8 and 9 of this publication, some elements of this classification do not appear because the populations specified relate only to those children who used formal and/or informal child care.

17. *Types of child care.* This classification measures every individual arrangement of formal and informal child care used. The classification does not take into account combinations of child care arrangements either within or across categories of child care. *A child may therefore occur more than once in the classification.* For this reason, the totals shown in tables using this classification are less than the sum of the components. The classification is as follows:

Formal child care—
 Pre-school
 Child care centre
 Family day care
 Not able to be classified
 Total formal care

Informal child care—

- Children resident in the dwelling
- Relatives resident in the dwelling
- Relatives not resident in the dwelling
- Non-relatives resident in the dwelling
- Non-relatives not resident in the dwelling
- Total informal care
- Total children who used formal and/or informal child care.

18. A *family* for the purposes of this survey is defined as a unit containing children under twelve years of age and a person responsible for those children (together with that person's spouse and older children resident in the dwelling, if any).

19. *Children* for the purposes of this survey, refer to children less than twelve years of age in a one parent or two parent family unit.

20. *Parents* for the purposes of this survey are defined as the person responsible for the children under twelve years of age, and that person's spouse, if any.

21. *Cost of child care* is money paid by parents for formal and/or informal child care on a weekly basis or converted to a weekly equivalent and includes donations if they are considered to be a cost by the person responsible.

Interpretation of results

22. *Formal child care*

- (a) Names and addresses of the child care services used were supplied by the person responsible for children under twelve years of age and coded to type of formal child care from a list compiled in each State.
- (b) A child may have more than one arrangement of the same type of formal child care, e.g. a child using two child care centres. These arrangements have been combined and the details aggregated in this publication for the child care type.

23. *Informal child care*

- (a) Informal child care was coded according to the response by the person responsible for the children under twelve years of age.
- (b) No attempt was made to collect individual information where there was more than one care giver within a type of informal child care, i.e. if the child was looked after by more than one relative resident in the same dwelling at different times in the week prior to interview, the data collected were the total care by those relatives.

24. *Other*

- (a) Other arrangements were coded according to the response by the person responsible for the children under twelve years of age.

(b) As arrangements such as hospital, sporting arrangements, scouts, music lessons, etc. would not always have been considered as a form of child care by the person responsible for the children under twelve years of age, the response to this type was significantly understated. It is also very likely that the count of children who looked after themselves was understated because some respondents may have been reluctant to tell an interviewer that they left their children on their own.

(c) A child shown in the tables as being looked after only by the person responsible in the week prior to interview may also have been cared for by that person's spouse.

25. The carer's place of residence is not intended to indicate where the child care took place e.g. care by a relative resident in the dwelling may have taken place at another person's residence.

26. *Hours of formal child care.* A child may attend more than one type of formal care (e.g. a pre-school for 5 hours a week and a child care centre for 8 hours a week). In these situations tables showing total hours of formal childcare used are based on the aggregate of the hours used for each type of individual formal child care (e.g. from the above example the total formal hours of care is 13, and the child will appear in the '10-19' hours category in the total formal care column of the table).

27. *Hours of informal child care, Hours of formal and/or informal child care.* As for hours of formal child care (see paragraph 26) hours of informal child care is formed by aggregating the total of the hours of care for each individual type of informal child care. Hours for formal and/or informal care is likewise based on aggregating over all types of formal and informal care where these are used.

28. *Cost of formal child care, Cost of informal child care, Cost of formal and/or informal child care.* These are formed on the same basis as hours in paragraphs 26-27.

Comparison of results with the November 1984 Child Care Survey

29. Caution should be exercised when attempting to compare the results of this survey and the 1984 survey due to the following changes:

- (a) changes in population size and composition have occurred between 1984 and 1987;
- (b) methodological changes have occurred between the 1984 and 1987 surveys of Child Care. Examples of these changes are — question design, questionnaire layout, prompt card use, and the choice of the responsible adult in the household;

- (c) some new variables were collected for the first time in the 1987 survey (e.g. vacation care) while other variables which were collected in the 1984 survey were dropped from the 1987 survey (e.g. whether the responsible adult was involved in study);
- (d) the reference period for the 1987 survey differed from that of the 1984 survey. For the 1984 survey interviews were carried out over a 2 week period commencing 12 November 1984. For the 1987 survey interviews were carried out over a 2 week period commencing 8 June 1987. The change in the reference period has an effect on the number of children attending school, particularly new entrants. The size of this effect varies between States and Territories due to their differing school enrolment procedures;
- (e) sampling factors — since all estimates were based on interviews with samples of the Australian population, results are subject to sampling variability (see Appendix 2 for further details).

Reliability of the estimates

30. The estimates provided in this publication are subject to two types of error.

Sampling error

This is the difference which would be expected between the estimate and the corresponding figure that would have been obtained from a collection based on the whole population, using the same questionnaires and procedures. A measure of the sampling error for a given estimate is provided by the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate (relative standard error). In this publication, estimates with a relative standard error between 30 and 50 per cent are preceded by * (e.g. *1.7). Estimates with a relative standard error greater than 50 per cent are suppressed and are replaced by *. Appendix 2 contains a discussion of sampling error as well as giving details for calculating the relative standard error for selected estimates in this publication.

Non-sampling error

31. These errors can occur whether the estimates are derived from a sample or from a complete enumeration. Three major sources of non-sampling error are:

- (a) inability to obtain comprehensive data from all persons included in the sample. These errors arise because of differences which exist between the characteristics of respondents and non-respondents;
- (b) errors in reporting on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information and mistakes in answers to questions;
- (c) errors arising during processing of the survey data. These processing errors may arise through mistakes in coding and data recording.

32. Non-sampling errors are difficult to measure in any collection. However, every effort was made to minimise these errors. In particular, the effect of the reporting and processing errors described above was minimised by careful questionnaire design, intensive training and

supervision of interviewers and extensive editing and quality control checking at all stages of data processing.

Pre-school non-sampling error

33. Notwithstanding paragraph 32, error did occur with the survey questionnaire in that it failed to establish that pre-school was to be considered as a type of child care. In many cases the responsible adult responded that the child currently attended school and identified the year or grade as pre-school/pre-primary. However, this attendance was excluded from responses regarding usage of formal child care.

34. In order to avoid the difficulties of analysis which occur when there is a large 'not stated' component, missing values for pre-school children have been imputed. Details of the imputation program are available on request.

Related publications

35. Users may wish to refer to the following related publications which are available on request:

Child Care Arrangements, November 1984 (4402.0)

Australian Families, 1982 (4408.0)

Pre-schools and Child Care Centres, 1987 (4202.3). The data refers to Queensland enrolments.

36. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publication Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

37. The following symbols, where shown in columns of figures or elsewhere in tables, mean:

- .. not applicable.
- * estimates preceded by * indicate a standard error for that estimate of between 30 and 50 per cent. Estimates replaced by * indicate a standard error for that estimate of more than 50 per cent (see Appendix 2).

38. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Published percentages in tables are calculated prior to rounding of the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that could be calculated from the rounded figures.

Electronic services

VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

APPENDIX 2

TECHNICAL NOTE

Reliability of estimates

Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability, that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings has been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate and this is known as the *relative standard error*.

2. Tables following these notes show estimated standard errors and relative standard errors for numbers of children under twelve years of age. Thus, an estimate for Australia of 5,000 children has a standard error of 1,050 children or a relative standard error of 21.3 per cent. This

means that there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 3,950 to 6,050 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the true figure is between 2,900 and 7,100.

3. In this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors less than 30 per cent are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with relative standard errors between 30 and 50 per cent have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *2.2) to indicate that they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution. Estimates with relative standard errors greater than 50 per cent have been replaced by an asterisk (*). Although figures for these components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

4. The imprecision due to sampling variability should not be confused with inaccuracies that may have occurred because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES — CHILDREN

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									—number—	Per cent of estimate
200						110				
300						140				
400						170				
500	250			220	210	170		200		
600	290			240	240	190		230		
800	350		300	270	260	210	320	250		
1,000	410		350	310	300	240	370	290	400	50.1
1,300	490	680	400	340	340	260	410	320	450	45.3
1,500	540	720	460	390	390	300	460	360	520	40.3
1,800	610	780	490	420	420	320	490	390	570	37.7
2,000	650	820	540	460	450	340	510	420	620	34.7
2,500	740	900	570	480	480	360	540	440	660	33.0
3,000	830	980	640	530	530	390	580	490	740	29.7
3,500	910	1,050	700	580	580	410	620	530	820	27.3
4,000	980	1,100	750	620	620	440	650	570	890	25.3
4,500	1,050	1,150	800	660	660	460	680	600	950	23.7
5,000	1,100	1,200	840	700	700	470	700	630	1,000	22.4
6,000	1,250	1,300	890	730	730	490	720	660	1,050	21.3
10,000	1,600	1,600	960	790	790	510	750	720	1,150	19.5
20,000	2,200	2,100	1,200	990	990	590	830	890	1,500	15.1
50,000	3,150	2,900	1,600	1,300	1,300	670	910	1,200	2,100	10.6
100,000	4,000	3,700	2,250	1,900	1,900	740			3,250	6.5
200,000	4,850	4,600	2,850	2,450	2,400				4,450	4.5
300,000	5,300	5,200	3,550						6,100	3.0
500,000	5,900								7,200	2.4
1,000,000									8,900	1.8
									11,700	1.2

PUBLICATION CUT-OFF POINTS FOR CHILD CARE ESTIMATES(a)

Relative Standard Error	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
30 per cent	2,460	3,460	1,810	1,310	1,280	780	1,700	1,120	2,450
50 per cent	520	1,400	610	480	450	250	690	420	800

(a) See Appendix 2, paragraph 3.

